The Real Cost of Gold

Bubbles was a fish who used to live happily with her parents and two siblings in a lake near Kalgoorlie gold mine in Australia. Bubbles used to love her parents and siblings. They had a good relationship with the whole fish community in the lake. Bubbles and her family used to live close to the tailing dams of the Kalgoorlie gold mine where the cyanide waste was stored and recycled for gold mining.

One day Bubbles came from her school to find her parents and siblings extremely sick. She immediately took her family to the doctor fish in the lake. The doctor did few tests and diagnosed that they were poisoned by cyanide which might have leaked from the tailing dams near their home. The doctor told Bubbles that as they lived close to the dams, they have been affected first. The doctor got concerned that cyanide might be spreading in the whole lake and he announced emergency alert for all the fish in the lake. Bubbles’ family’s condition started getting worse. Bubbles was not feeling well either. The doctor told her that she probably might have intook some cyanide, too. The next day, a few fish died in the lake. All the other fish started packing their stuff to move to another lake. After struggling for two days, all of Bubbles family died leaving her alone. Bubbles was extremely grieved on this loss.

Bubbles, best friend, Bluefin and her parents consoled and supported her. The reporter fish announced the death of hundred other fishes in the lake. After hearing this news, all the fish in the lake left their homes and started to swim to another lake. Bubbles could not stop crying as she was missing her family but Bluefin’s mom took her in her arms and tried to calm her down. On their way to the other lake, they saw dead bodies of other fish, which saddened them even more. Bluefin asked her mom, “Mom, why do humans use cyanide when they know that it could leak into lakes and kill a number of fish?” Her mom replied, “Bluefin, humans use sodium cyanide to extract gold from mines. Gold is a very precious metal. Gold is used to make expensive jewelleries. Many of our ancestor fish have died because of cyanide poisoning. Humans are aware of the adverse effects of the cyanide poisoning on the environment and the wild life. However, the biggest irony is that most of the humans are so greedy for gold that they never realize the real cost of their glittering gold accessories.”

